

Yale University Library
Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the Irah Chase Papers

RG 296



Andover Newton Theological School and Yale Divinity Library staff

2018

409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301

divinity.library@yale.edu

<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	3
Preferred Citation	3
Biographical / Historical	4
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	4
Collection Contents	5
Series I: Correspondence	5
Series II: Sermons	7
Series III: Addresses and Lectures	8
Series IV: Unpublished Literary Manuscripts	9
Series V: Publications	10
Book	10
Articles	10
Series VI: Notes	11
Student lecture notes	11
Notes on readings	11
Notes on sermons	11
Miscellaneous notes	11
Series VII: Miscellaneous Papers and Reports	12
Reports and statements	12
Publications on life of Irah Chase	12
Chase family papers	12
Series VIII: Addendum	13

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301
divinity.library@yale.edu
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

CALL NUMBER: RG 296

TITLE: Irah Chase Papers

DATES: 1814–1864

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3 linear feet (7 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection documents Chase's theological training and his work at Columbian College and the Newton Theological Institution where he taught Biblical theology (1825-1838) and church history (1838-1845), as well as his later work as an author of tracts and articles for religious periodicals.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.296>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.296>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from Andover Newton Theological School to the Yale Divinity Library in 2017.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation

Irah Chase Papers (RG 296), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Biographical / Historical

Irah Chase was born in Stratton, Vermont, in 1793, and spent his childhood in that state. He graduated from Middlebury College in 1814, and from Andover Theological Seminary in 1817. After a year of service as a missionary in Virginia, Irah Chase co-founded a Baptist theological seminary in Philadelphia, which was relocated to Washington, D.C. and named Columbian College. Columbian College was chartered by Congress in 1821 and eventually was renamed George Washington University in 1904. In 1825 Chase moved to Massachusetts to inaugurate the course of study at Newton Theological Institution. At Newton he taught Biblical theology (1825-1838) and church history (1838-1845). After 1845 he engaged in literary work, and published several tracts and articles for religious periodicals. He died in Newton in 1864 and is buried in Newton Cemetery.

Scope and Contents

The Irah Chase Papers, 1814-1864, primarily document the professional work of Chase. The collection is arranged according to the following categories: correspondence, sermons, addresses, lectures, unpublished literary manuscripts, publications, student lecture notes from Andover Theological Seminary, notes on readings, notes on sermons, miscellaneous papers and reports. Included in the correspondence are several letters which relate to early Baptist educational work in general and to the ministerial training school in Philadelphia and Washington in particular. The sermon notes were transcribed during his student days at Andover, and provide a record of chapel sermons not available elsewhere. The miscellaneous papers primarily relate to Baptist educational work in the early 19th century.

Also included is a small number of items related to Cummings family genealogy, collected by William Leverett Cummings, a descendant of Henry Savage Chase, son of Irah and Harriet Savage, as well as an addendum contain photographs of the Middle East and additional correspondence and writings.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into eight series:

Series I. Correspondence

Series II. Sermons

Series III. Addresses and Lectures

Series IV. Unpublished Literary Manuscripts

Series V. Publications

Series VI. Notes

Series VII. Miscellaneous Papers and Reports

Series VIII. Addendum

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence

For a more detailed listing of correspondence, see original finding aid, which is linked to from <https://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections/andover-newton>.

b. 1, f. 1	Joseph Grafton to IC	No date
b. 1, f. 1	IC to editors of <i>Reflector</i> and <i>Watchman</i>	No date
b. 1, f. 1	IC to editors of <i>Christian Chronicle</i>	No date
b. 1, f. 1	IC to a minister, author of an article in <i>Christian Chronicle</i>	No date
b. 1, f. 2	IC to Rev. Luther Rice	1815
b. 1, f. 2	IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin	1818
b. 1, f. 2	IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; to Rev. William Staughton	1819
b. 1, f. 2	IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; to "my dear sister"	1820
b. 1, f. 3	IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; to/from Rev. D. B. Brown; to Dr. Staughton	1821
b. 1, f. 4	IC to Rev. Thomas Baldwin; to Rev. Luther Rice	1822
b. 1, f. 4	Trustees of Columbian College to IC; Dr. Staughton to IC	1823
b. 1, f. 4	IC to Dr. Sewall; to "my very dear brother"; to Herr Diaconus Hesekei; to [P] Potts; to Rev. J. H. Hinton; to Dr. Baldwin	1824
b. 1, f. 5	IC and H. J. Ripley to Rev. E. Nelson (included is undated letter of IC to Rev. E. Nelson)	1826
b. 1, f. 5	IC and Henry Ripley to Rev. Henry Jackson and Rev. James D. Knowles	1827
b. 1, f. 6	IC and H. J. Ripley to editor of <i>Christian Watchman</i>	1828
b. 1, f. 7	Including L. Wayland to IC; IC to whom it may concern, re Joel Smith Bacon	1830
b. 1, f. 7	Including Rev. Peter Chase to IC; IC to President Bates	1832
b. 1, f. 7	IC to Samuel B. Swain	1833
b. 1, f. 7	IC to President of Board of Trustees; to Albert Day, Henry Burgess and James Burt; to Nicholas Brown;	1836
b. 1, f. 7	Silas Ilsley to IC	1837
b. 1, f. 7	Letter "to my dear brother" and summary of a letter "in reply to inquiries made by a dear brother"	1839
b. 1, f. 8	Rev. Dr. Dagg to IC	1844
b. 1, f. 8	IC to dear sir	1848
b. 1, f. 8	Charles Sumner to IC	1853

b. 1, f. 8	IC to Brother Henry	1855
b. 1, f. 8	W. B. Hackett to IC	1856
b. 1, f. 8	IC to Rev. Dr. Wood	1858
b. 1, f. 8	IC to Rev. Dr. Huntington	1860
b. 1, f. 8	IC to Rev. James Chrystal; to Rev. and dear sir	1861
b. 1, f. 8	IC to son; to Rev. Dr. Hansel	1864

Series II: Sermons

b. 1, f. 9-21	Undated sermons arranged by text: Genesis - 2 Timothy For a full listing of scriptural texts, see original finding, which is linked to from https://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections/andover-newton .	
b. 2	Undated sermons arranged by text: Hebrews - Revelation	
b. 2	Dated sermons For a full listing of exact dates and scriptural texts see original finding aid, which is linked to from https://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections/andover-newton .	1818-1846

Series III: Addresses and Lectures

b. 2	Untitled addresses (6)	No date
b. 2	Communion meditation	No date
b. 2	Address to graduating class	No date
b. 2	Farewell to colleagues [Columbian College]	No date
b. 2	How a theological student is to prosecute his studies	No date
b. 2	Address to a class by the Senior Professor at the anniversary	1830
b. 2	Undated charges	No date
b. 2	Charge to Jonathan Price, on his designation as a missionary to Burma	1821
b. 2	Charge to to Isaac M. Willmarth	1834
b. 2	Charge at the installation of Rev. Mr. Nott; at the ordination of Rev.Prof. Hackett	1839
b. 2	Lectures: Bible	
b. 2	Lectures: Theology	
b. 2	Lectures: Church History	
b. 2	Lectures: Miscellaneous	
b. 2	Lecture notes: Theology	
b. 3	Lecture notes: Theology	
b. 3	Lecture notes: Church history	

Series IV: Unpublished Literary Manuscripts

b. 3	Untitled (4)
b. 3	Acts 8:37
b. 3	The acts of Pilate
b. 3	The announcement which Jesus made of himself as the Messiah
b. 3	Articles of Christian doctrine
b. 3	Baptismal tracts for the times
b. 3	The canons of the apostles
b. 3	Dr. Hackett's revision of the Epistle to Philemon
b. 3	Editorial comment (2)
b. 3	The meaning of Irenaeus
b. 3	The miracles of Christ
b. 3	Remarks on the personality and divinity of the holy ghost
b. 3	The savior's prospective arrangements

Series V: Publications

Book

- | | | |
|------|---|------|
| b. 4 | <i>Infant Baptism an Invention of Men; or Dr. Bushnell's Arguments Reviewed.</i>
Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society, 1883.

Incomplete manuscript, missing most of section 2 on "The testimony of Origen respecting the baptism of infants." | 1883 |
|------|---|------|
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Articles

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|------|---|
| b. 4 | incomplete fragments (2 folders) |
| b. 4 | The baptism of Basil the Great: was it in his infancy? |
| b. 4 | Basil the Great, an important witness respecting baptism in the fourth century |
| b. 4 | Dr. Robinson and Dr. Ripley |
| b. 4 | Faith and works |
| b. 4 | The meaning of Irenaeus in the phrase, "regenerated unto God" |
| b. 4 | Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar |
| b. 4 | Neander |
| b. 4 | The new reformation in Germany |
| b. 4 | Our duty, in view of man's increasing dominion over nature |
| b. 4 | Principles of exposition |
| b. 4 | Punishment in the future state (2) |
| b. 4 | [Review of] A commentary on the epistle to the Hebrews by Moses Stuart |
| b. 4 | Review of Fuller on Communion |
| b. 4 | The spirit of the Mohammedan religions perceptible preeminently in the traditions |
| b. 4 | Tholuck |
| b. 4 | Unfounded claims to spiritual illuminations (3 drafts) |
| b. 4 | A voice from the second century |
| b. 4 | Who is awake? |
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Series VI: Notes

Student lecture notes

Notes taken while Chase was a student at Andover Theological Seminary

b. 4	Incomplete fragments and untitled	
b. 4	Psalm 49	
b. 4	Hints on public prayer	
b. 4	The resurrection	
b. 4	Subjects in theology	
b. 4	Booklet/November 24, 1814-October 16, 1816: Leonard Woods' lectures on theology	1814-1816
b. 4	Booklet/January 3-February 7, 1815: Prefaces to the gospels, The doctrine of accommodation, Syllabus of Quintilian on the human voice	1815
b. 4	Booklet/November 14, 1815: Dick on Inspiration of the holy scriptures; 2nd year--Dr. Woods' department	1815
b. 4	Booklet/November 20, 1815: The immutability of God	1815
Notes on readings		
b. 5	12 folders of notes; first folder includes list of books by subject	
Notes on sermons		
b. 5	Including sermons by Holbrook, Parkhurst, Aiken, Fitch, Wilson, Stuart, Hooks, Taylor, Wright, Parsons, Calhoun, Stratton, Woods, Morse, Rockwood, Emerson, Harris, Ely	1816-1817
Miscellaneous notes		
b. 5	8 folders of notes	

Series VII: Miscellaneous Papers and Reports

Reports and statements

b. 5	Untitled, on theological education	
b. 5	Plan of a theological institution to be connected with Brown University. Recommended by the trustees of the Education Societies of the Warren and Boston Association	1817
b. 5	Institution for pious young men called to the gospel ministry, Aug. 10, 1818 (incomplete)	1818
b. 5	A brief statement of what occurred in the Philadelphia Association, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 6th and 7th of Oct. 1818, relative to the First Baptist Church in Philadelphia	1818
b. 5	Circular letter: The elders and messengers of the Fairfield Baptist Association, convened at Milton, on the 25th and 26th days of August, AD 1819, to the churches which they represent	1819
b. 5	Newton Theological Institution--Report on semi-annual examination	No date
b. 5	Newton Theological Institution--Response to statements in the <i>Watchman</i> and <i>Reflector</i> on Dr. Hackett's absence	No date
b. 5	Committee reports: On religious tracts; On missions; On missions to the Indians; On a memorial of Dr. Chapin	
b. 5	Report to the trustees of Newton Theological Institution on the subject of a preparatory department (incomplete)	
b. 5	Report to the executive committee of the Missionary Union on Gammel's History of the American Baptist Missions	1849
b. 5	On the Book of Job (booklet in German script)	
Publications on life of Irah Chase		
b. 5	"Rev. Irah Chase, D.D." In BAPTIST MEMORIAL & MONTHLY RECORD. ed. Rev. Enoch Hutchinson, 5-82. New York: Z.P. Hatch.	1850
b. 5	IN MEMORIUM, TRIBUTE OF AFFECTION TO THE MEMORY OF PROFESSOR IRAH CHASE. Boston: Geo. C. Rand & Avery, Printers	1865
b. 5	CHRISTIAN GREATNESS IN THE SCHOLAR, A DISCOURSE ON THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF REV. IRAH CHASE, D.D ... Delivered before the Society of Inquiry at Newton, June 27, 1865 by William Hague, D.D. Boston: Gould and Lincoln	1866
b. 5	"Ira Chase, the Missionary, the Scholar and the Saint." in CHRISTIAN REPOSITORY AND HOME CIRCLE. ed. S.R. Ford, (August, 1884): 95-102	1884
Chase family papers		
b. 5	Cummings family genealogy - William Leverett Cummings descended from Henry Savage Chase, son of Irah and Harriet Savage	
b. 5	Letters: Ellen Chase	1925

Series VIII: Addendum

b. 6	Photographs of the Middle East	
b. 7, f. 1	Correspondence and writings	1834–1836
b. 7, f. 2	Correspondence	1838–1843
b. 7, f. 3	Correspondence	1847
b. 7, f. 4	Correspondence	1854–1858
b. 7, f. 5	Published writings: <i>Bunsen's View of Baptism</i>	1853
b. 7, f. 5	Published writings: <i>The Design of Baptism Viewed in Its Relation to Christian Life</i>	1851
b. 7, f. 6	Manuscripts, notes, letters to editors	
b. 7, f. 7	Manuscript: The Life of Bunyan	
b. 7, f. 8	Manuscript: The Prayers for Infants in the Apostolical Constitutions	1853